(c) the number of 50 seater aircrafts proposed to be purchased and the cost of each aircraft;

(d) whether the deal has been finalised; and

(e) if so, the date by which these aircrafts are expected to be supplied to the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines is considering the acquistion six 50 seater turboprop aircraft. The companies along with the names of aircraft which have been short-listed are given below :

	Name of the Campany	Aircraft
1.	Aero International (Regionale) France	ATR 42-500
2.	Bombardier Regional Aircraft Canada	Dash 8-300
3.	Saab Aircraft International Ltd. Sweden	Saab 2000

Based on the present offers, estimated cost of each aircraft is about US$ 16 million.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The offers received from the three manufacturers are under evaluation/negotiation.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Train on Metre Gauge

270. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the extention of railway services by introducing new train on the metre gauge rail line in the Neemach-Mah railway section under Ratlam railway division in the Western Railway during each of the last three years, till August, 1997;

(b) the details of the metre gauge and broad gauge passenger coaches and railway engines made available to the Ratlam Division under the Western Railway during each of the last three years till 1997; and

(c) the measures taken for the expansion and maintenance of metre gauge passenger railway services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 69/70 Indore-Mhow Passenger has been introduced on Nimach-Mhow section w.e.f. 05.02.96.

(b) During the last 3 years no additional locos have been provided for passenger service to Ratlam Division.

From 1995 to Oct.'97, 91 BG additional coaches were provided to Ratlam Division.

(c) With the progress of gauge conversion work, the requirement of M.G. coaches is coming down but the available coaches are being maintained upto the required standards. Important measures launched by Railways for improving the condition of coaches like renovation of rakes, deployment of high pressure jet cleaning machines, intensive cleaning of rakes etc. being implemented on metre gauage also. 100 MG coaches have also been included in the coach refurnishing plan to provide one tie major inputs.

[English]

Fare concessions by Indian Airlines

271. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of fare concessions admissible to senior citizens, sportsmen and school teachers while traveling by Indian Airlines flights as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : The following fare concessions are admissible to senior citizens and soprtsmen while travelling by Indian Airlines flight :

(i) 50% discount to all persons who have completed 65 years of age on the date of commencement of their travel. The discount is available to Economy Class on all Indian Airlines domestic services, except on Agati-Cochin sector.

(ii) (a) Free passages to winners of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, at the Asiad, Olympics/ Commonwealth Games etc. from Home-Town to venue of the national tournaments, once a year.

(b) Free passages to all Indian Athletes and sports persons participating in recognised world championships held in India, from home town to the venue of Games and back.

(c) Free passages to Ms. P.T. Usha and her coach, from home -town to the venue of the coaching centre.

(d) 25% concession to the sports persons from the North-Eastern Region who are participating in the National sports events from Calcutta/Guwahati to a station within the North Eastern Region.